May 30, 2007

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Portals II, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

   Re: Reply Comments
        Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications
        Capability
        GN Docket No. 07-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to submit these reply comments in support of the Comments of
the American Library Association (ALA) in this proceeding. My name is
James Loyd and I am the Systems Administrator for Decatur Public Library
in Decatur, AL. As a public library, we are the sole source of internet access
for many of our patrons.

The ALA raised some important issues in its comments in this proceeding. I
am writing to augment some of those concerns. First, we support the ALA's
request that the Commission explore the impact of broadband technologies on
public libraries. As the ALA noted, about 98% of public libraries provide
some form of Internet access. Our library currently provides free public
access to 26 internet enabled computers. The Internet connectivity provided
by our public libraries is increasingly important. We find that our public
libraries are used by patrons from a wide variety of age and income ranges.
Some of the most popular uses are social networking, genealogy research, and
email.

The ALA also noted, however, that only 45% of public libraries nationwide
are satisfied with their level of broadband connectivity.   We are concerned
that the current marketplace is not working adequately to meet the needs of
our public libraries. We obtained a grant to offer more computers, but the
increased use has resulted in slower access due to bandwidth restrictions.
The cost for increasing our bandwidth is prohibitive, given our current level
of funding.

As a result of these difficulties, we are not able to meet the needs of our
patrons as we would like and as they expect. For instance, we have received
complaints of pages loading slowly or not at all during high traffic times such

as after school and Sunday afternoons. We have also postponed incorporating wifi access within the library because of the further strain on our bandwidth that would inevitably result.

For these reasons, we support ALA's suggestion that the FCC should encourage the public providers of broadband connectivity to work more closely with public libraries. Our public libraries need more bandwidth, preferably at lower rates than the general "market-based rates" that are currently being offered to us. But most importantly, we would like to find a way for the broadband providers in our state to work with us to find solutions to our broadband issues.

Given the important role that public libraries play in our society and economy, we encourage the FCC to increase its focus on the need to provide public libraries with enhanced broadband connectivity in this proceeding.

Thank you,

James Loyd
Systems Administrator
Decatur Public Library